



Padre Island National Seashore  
**SandDollar**



**Friday, July 16, 2004**

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## **Superintendent**

Colin's schedule:

Monday, 7/12 – In the Park  
Tuesday, 7/13 – In the Park  
Wed., 7/14 – In the Park  
Thurs., 7/15 – In the Park  
Friday, 7/16 – In the Park

## ***Safety Notes--***

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

The Following Safety Message was submitted by Randy Larson:

**The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations.**

**In the first case**, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

**In the second, an individual** suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

**And in the third**, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

**You should know that:**

Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes

Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition

Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boat! , Etc.

Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, (i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.)

**To sum it up, here are the:** Four Rules for Safe Refueling

- 1) Turn off engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched **150 cases of these fires.**

His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started, as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- 8) Seventeen fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

**Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas.**

If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

As I mentioned earlier, The Petroleum Equipment Institute, along with several other companies now, are really trying to make the public aware of this danger. You can find out more information by going to <http://www.pei.org/> . Once here, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static".

**I ask you to please send this information to ALL your family and friends, especially those who have kids in the car with them while pumping gas. If this were to happen to them, they may not be able to get the children out in time. Thanks for passing this along.**

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.  
Make it a safe day.

## **Employees Association News -**

### **Administration**

Ruby has two 5 drawer filing cabinets. One is legal size and locks with a key. It will need some work to make the lock work, but this should be no problem with a little elbow grease. The other cabinet is letter size and does not lock. Both cabinets are the old green gun metal color and are in great condition. First come first served!

The Supervisory Park Ranger (Protection), GS-0025-11/12, will be open from July 9 -27. It will be posted on USAJOBS and on the HQ bulletin board.

### **FEGLI Open Season Begins in September**

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that open season for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI) will be from September 1 through September 30, 2004. The program consists of basic life insurance coverage and three options that include coverage for up to five times an employee's base salary plus coverage for family members. In most cases, a new federal employee is automatically covered by basic life insurance. The types and amounts of coverage available are not changing. During the open season, federal and postal employees will be able to enroll in the program or increase or change current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

### **Changes Are Coming to the TSP Loan Program**

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has announced that effective July 1, 2004; three changes will be made to the TSP loan program. They are: (1) A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan; (2) Two general purpose loans at the same time will no longer be permitted (however, one can have both a general purpose and a residential loan); and (3) Upon paying off a TSP loan, the TSP participant will not be eligible to apply for another loan of the same type for 60 days.

### **UNIFORMS**

Within the next 2 1/2 weeks, Cargo Pants and Convertible trousers will appear on the uniform website. Employees will be able to order these items, but they will not be physically in stock with VF Solutions. It may take about 2 months before employees will be able to receive these items. We are putting them on the website now so they can order them before the ordering period ends on August 21st. I would not recommend that seasonals order these items yet. They are not in stock. It will take at least 2 months before these items will be shipped out to employees.

**Last Day to Order Uniforms is August 21!**

## UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/28/2004	Monday	1:00-4:00
Emerging Leaders Consortium Module 300: Congressional Actions and the NPS ---to receive credit, attendance on both days is required	06/29/2004	Tuesday	1:00-4:00
Gateway Communities: Keys to Success	07/08/2004	Thursday	12:30-3:30
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 1): Tools for Effective Partnering	07/14/2004	Wednesday	12:00-4:00
Working With NPS Agreements for Partnerships (Module 2): Developing and Managing Agreements for Partnerships	07/15/2004	Thursday	12:00-4:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	07/19/2004	Monday	1:30-3:30
Resolving Performance Issues	08/10/2004	Tuesday	2:00-2:00
Dealing with Misconduct	08/10/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Retirement Planning for New Employees	08/26/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
Communication: The Key to Performance Management	09/09/2004	Thursday	2:00-4:00
From Hugger to Harasser: The True Story Behind Sexual Harassment	09/09/2004	Thursday	10:00-12:00
NPS Recreation and Preservation Programs	09/13/2004	Monday	2:00-4:00
Position Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know	09/21/2004	Tuesday	2:00-4:00
Managing Performance	09/21/2004	Tuesday	10:00-12:00
Administrative Grievances: What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You	09/23/2004	Thursday	2:00 -4:30
IDP Interpretive Media Development (Module 311)	09/28/2004	Tuesday	12:00-4:00

The trailer will be used for TEL training on July 19th and August 10th.

## **Facility Management**

Please continue logging your fuel at the fuel tanks:

- Tank #4 for park owned vehicles
- Tank #3 for GSA vehicles

The automatic system will not be repaired due to the high cost. The new system will be installed next month. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

## **Interpretation**

The visitor center action continues to be hot and heavy as the summer season is now in full swing. The July Fourth weekend brought exceptional crowds. Most of our programs are seeing increased attendance this season in part due to the great job of our seasonal staff have done. They have done their best to develop family friendly programs and it seems to be paying dividends. Our daily program schedule includes programs at 9:30, 11:00, 1:00, and 3:00 so if visitors are interested send them on down!

Education programs are still active. We have a greatly expanded partnership with Texas A & M for both youth and college age students. The Texas State Aquarium has also asked us to do 15 programs for their students as well. One of our more unique programs coming up on July 15 and 16 is the return of the "Sea Camp for the Blind". These are really enthusiastic folks that we get knee deep in the surf to explore what lives there. Feel free to call the visitor center if you have any interest in helping with the program, or would just like to stop by.

All of us in interp want to say thanks to all of the maintenance staff who have helped immensely with special events and the extra work that requires. A special thanks to Rey Brown and all those involved in getting our air conditioning repaired over the Fourth weekend.

On the personnel front, Juan will be away on vacation and park business until approximately July 26. If you field any calls or inquiries for the Chief of Interp, please refer them to Buzz until he returns.

**Please join the Concessions Staff as they say farewell to Roxy. There will be a party for her at Joe's Crab Shack on SPID at 6:30 on Tuesday, July 20, 2004.**

## **Protection**

Next week two Motorola engineers will be here to help design our future radio infrastructure and operating systems. Any ideas you have on improving our system please share with me or any one else on the park radio team.

### **Radio Tip #2**

Do NOT charge your battery with the radio on while it sits in the charger. The Motorola XTS5000 uses a Nichol-Metal Hydride battery which is different than our previous Ni-Cad Batteries. If you leave your radio on while charging, the charger will send voltage pulses that will overcharge and cause damage to the battery. The proper procedure with these new radios is to turn off your radio while charging. If in fact you are swapping out batteries (that is why you were given two batteries) you can have one battery charging while

the radio is still functional with the second battery. It will take a little getting used to, but the downside of not changing our charging practices will be a dead battery much quicker than should be.

Last Saturday morning a shark boat was found at MM33 by a turtle volunteer. Based on the investigation it is suspected a drug load was off-loaded sometime during the night. Also Saturday morning rangers took into custody two illegal immigrants at MM22. The two incidents are thought to be unrelated.

The ranger division will be involved in a law enforcement program review Aug 3-5. Three team members from outside the park will audit our program based on a standard regional evaluation process. Division Chiefs and ranger staff will be interviewed as part of the evaluation.

If you thought based on your observations that visitation is up this year you're right! Visitation through June is 333,478 which is up from 289,386, a 15% increase.

## **Resources Management**

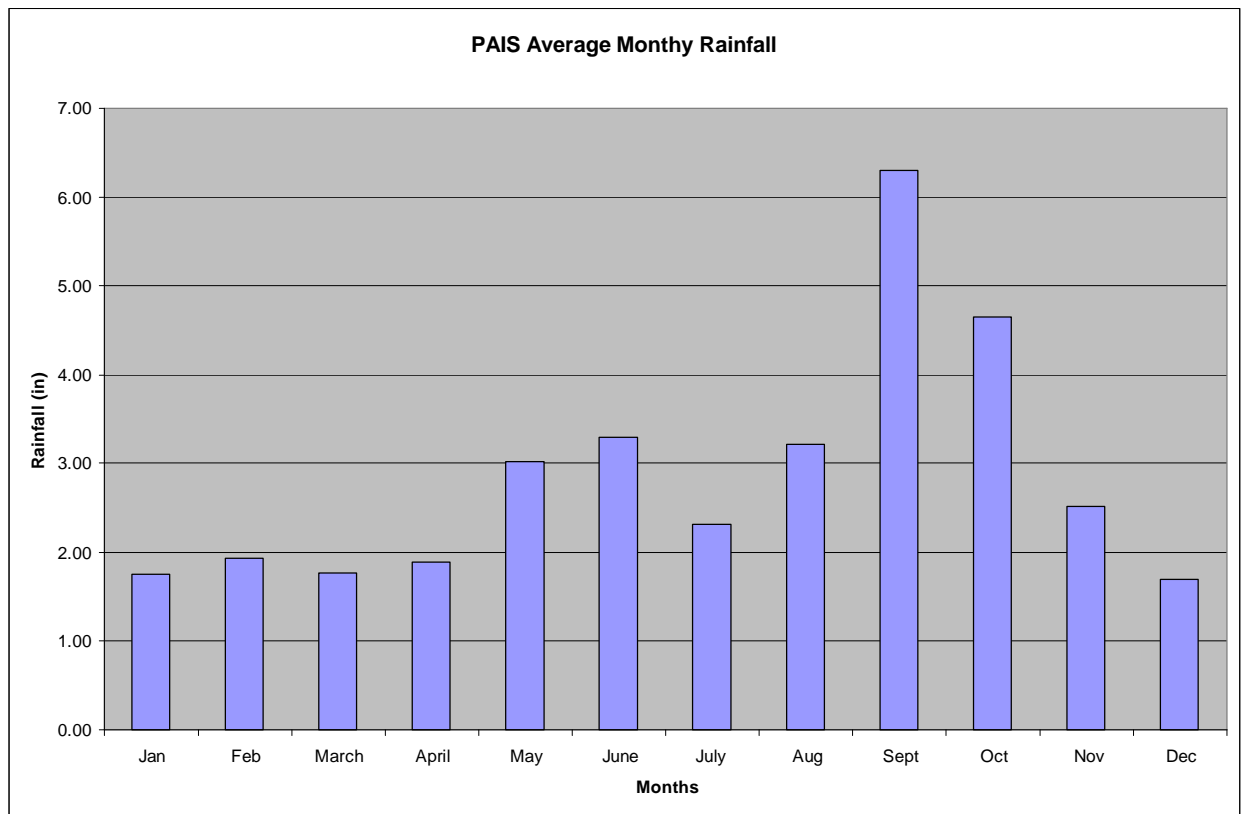
### **Personnel:**

- **Michelle Kolar has accepted the 2<sup>nd</sup> biotech position. Michelle is currently completing an internship with US Fish and Wildlife and completing her graduate degree in Environmental Science. She also has is coordinating the Snowy Plover and Wilson Plover census for the Texas coast. She will be starting work here on September 7. Michelle will be a great addition to the RM staff.**

### **Projects:**

- **We have recently started the Plover and Least Tern Survey. The survey will be conducted Tuesday and Thursday at the 35, 45, and 55 MM. Gene Blacklock of the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program will assisting with the surveys on Thursdays.**

- We have recently updated the rainfall data for the park for 1967-2003. This data will be used by the park to determine resource management issues and other projects concerning the park. Below is a bar graph describing the average monthly rainfall for the park. The data is located in the shared drive under projects.



## Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

No new sea turtle nests have been found on the Texas coast within the last week. To date, 40 Kemp's ridley, two loggerhead, and one green sea turtle nests have been found on the Texas coast this year.

**Media event and release of nests 18-25 completed** - Between July 7 and 12, we released 608 hatchlings from nests 18-25, with releases held on each of these days. On Friday July 9, we held our annual media event for the sea turtle program. This year, the event was held to celebrate the record number of Kemp's ridley nests found on the Texas coast and to recognize Unilever for their generous donation of \$15,000 for the turtle project. We had a great turn out of media



representatives, the public, personnel from other agencies, and park staff and volunteers to witness the release of 230 hatchlings, the largest number released at one time so far this year. We want to thank numerous staff members and volunteers from various divisions that helped make this event such a tremendous success. We really appreciate everyone's help!

For those folks interested in seeing a release this year, please try to come to see one now. As you can see from the table below listing the predicted release dates, the last window for large releases and fairly good certainty of seeing a release this year occurs when hatchlings from nine nests (nests 28-36) will be released between about July 19 and 27, with the largest release likely somewhere in the middle of that window.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT  
THE  
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

<b>Nest # (Species)</b>	<b>Date Found</b>	<b>Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates</b>
28-29 (Kemp's ridley)	June 3	July 19-25
30-34 (Kemp's ridley)	June 5	July 21-27
35 (Kemp's ridley)	June 6	July 22-28
36 (Kemp's ridley)	June 8	July 24-30
38 (Loggerhead)	June 13	August 1-6
40 (Kemp's ridley)	June 16	August 1-7
41 (Kemp's ridley)	June 21	August 6-12
42 (Kemp's ridley)	June 22	August 7-13
43 (Green)	July 1	August 20-25

**Come and Celebrate a Record Breaking Year!!!**

End of Turtle Season Party hosted by the Division of Sea Turtle  
Science and Recovery

Where: Linda Morehead's House

1818 Glenoak in Flour Bluff

(exit Flour Bluff Drive, go South, then turn right on Glenoak -  
look for balloons on the mailbox)

When: July 17th, 2004 (SATURDAY)

Time: 8:30 p.m.  
Music and fun, BYOB

### **Come Say Thanks to our Turtle Program Volunteers!!!**

This year, over 140 volunteers participated in the Padre Island National Seashore Sea Turtle Volunteer Program. We will hold our annual Volunteer Appreciation Gathering to honor these dedicated turtle program volunteers beginning at **6:30 am on Thursday July 22**. Based on a number of factors, it is likely that there will be a release that morning. If so, that release will be held in special recognition of our volunteers and will be moved to in front of the **Malaquite Visitor Center**, where our media event release was held. Immediately following the release we will hold a Volunteer Appreciation ceremony on the deck of the Visitor Center where we will say words of thanks to the volunteers, give them appreciation certificates and tokens of recognition, and then serve cake and punch. Please come out and help say thank you to our dedicated turtle program volunteers!